UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

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15 February 1996

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 106

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/50/629)]

50/147. United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/156 of 23 December 1994,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/21 of 25 July 1994,

Aware of the financial difficulties that the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders continues to face as a result of the fact that many States of the African region are in the category of least developed countries and therefore lack the necessary resources with which to support the Institute,

Conscious of the efforts made thus far by the Institute in fulfilling its mandate through, inter alia, the organization of training programmes and regional seminars, as well as the provision of advisory services,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General, 1/

1. Commends the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders for the activities it has undertaken, despite its difficulties in fulfilling its mandate, as reflected in the progress report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United

1/ A/50/375.

Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and other institutes; 2/

2. Expresses its appreciation to those Governments and intergovernmental bodies which have supported the Institute in the discharge of its responsibilities;

3. Appeals to Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide financial and technical support to the Institute to enable it to fulfil its objectives, in particular those concerning training, technical assistance, policy guidance, research and data collection;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Institute is provided with adequate funds, within the overall appropriation of the programme budget and from extrabudgetary resources, and to submit proposals for any necessary additional funding of the Institute, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/156 and its decision 49/480 of 6 April 1995;

5. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to reconsider its decision with regard to its financial support to the Institute and to continue providing appropriate funds for the institutional strengthening and the implementation of the programme of work of the Institute, taking into account the difficult economic and financial situation faced by many countries in the African region;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up with all concerned on the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session and to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its fifth session.

97th plenary meeting
21 December 1995

2/ E/CN.15/1995/9 and Add.1.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/50/631)]

50/148. International action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/12 of 28 October 1993, 48/112 of 20 December 1993 and 49/168 of 23 December 1994,

Profoundly alarmed by the magnitude of the rising trend in drug abuse, illicit production and trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances, including synthetic and designer drugs, which threatens the health and well-being of millions of persons, in particular the youth, in all countries of the world,

Gravely concerned that, despite increased efforts by States and relevant international organizations, the illicit demand for, production of and traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including synthetic and designer drugs, have expanded globally and, therefore, continue to threaten seriously the socio-economic and political systems and the stability, national security and sovereignty of an increasing number of States,

Deeply alarmed by the growing violence and economic power of criminal organizations and terrorist groups that engage in the production of, traffic in and distribution of drugs, arms and precursors and essential chemicals, which at times places them beyond the reach of the law, corrupting institutions, undermining the full exercise of human rights and threatening the stability of many societies in the world,

Deeply alarmed also by the growing links at the transnational level between criminal organizations and terrorist groups engaged in drug trafficking activities and other criminal activities, such as money laundering and illicit traffic of arms and precursors and essential chemicals,

Fully aware that States, the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and multilateral development banks need to accord a higher priority to dealing with this scourge, which undermines development, economic and political stability and democratic institutions, and the combat against

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which entails increasing economic costs for Governments and the irreparable loss of human lives,

Convinced of the desirability of closer coordination and cooperation among States in combating drug-related crimes, such as terrorism, illicit arms trade and money laundering, and bearing in mind the role that could be played by both the United Nations and regional organizations in this respect,

Reaffirming that a comprehensive framework for international cooperation in drug control is provided by the existing drug control conventions, the Declaration 1/ and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, 2/ the Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action 3/ adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session devoted to the question of international cooperation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic and psychotropic substances, the Declaration adopted by the World Ministerial Summit to Reduce the Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat, 4/ the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, 5/ the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime 6/ and other relevant international standards, and stressing the need for increased efforts to implement them,

Recognizing the efforts of countries which produce narcotic drugs for scientific, medicinal and therapeutic uses to prevent the diversion of such substances to illicit markets and to maintain production at a level consistent with licit demand in line with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, 7/

Acknowledging that there are links, under certain circumstances, between poverty and the increase in the illicit production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and that the promotion of the economic development of countries affected by the illicit drug trade requires appropriate measures, including strengthened international cooperation in support of alternative and sustainable development activities in the affected areas of those countries, which have as their objectives the reduction and elimination of illicit drug production,

Emphasizing the need for an analysis of transit routes used by drug traffickers, which are constantly changing and expanding to include a growing number of countries and regions in all parts of the world,

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1/ See Report of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Vienna, 17-26 June 1987 (United Nations publication, Sales N°. E.87.I.18), chap. I, sect. A.

2/ Ibid., sect. B.

3/ Resolution S-17/2, annex.

4/ A/45/262, annex.

5/ See A/49/139-E/1994/57.

6/ See A/49/748, annex, sect. I. A.

7/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 520, No. 7515.

Underlining the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the principal United Nations policy-making body on drug control issues,

Reaffirming the leadership role of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme as the main focus for concerted international action for drug abuse control, and commending the way in which it has carried out the functions entrusted to it,

Recognizing that the new forms of criminal activities of international drug trafficking organizations call for enhanced international cooperation, as well as a renewal of the international commitment to fight against these menaces, and require the formulation of new strategies, approaches and objectives which, respectful of the sovereignty of States, can deal more effectively with the international operations of those involved in the illegal traffic of drugs and arms, the diversion of precursors and essential chemicals and money laundering through financial and non-financial operations,

I

Respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law in the fight against drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking

1. Reaffirms that the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking should not in any way justify violation of the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations;

2. Calls upon all States to intensify their actions to promote effective cooperation in the efforts to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking so as to contribute to a climate conducive to achieving this end, on the basis of the principles of equal rights and mutual respect;

II

International action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking

1. Renews its commitment to further strengthening international cooperation and substantially increasing efforts against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances, based on the principle of shared responsibility and taking into account experience gained;

2. Urges all States to ratify or accede to and implement all the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 7/ as amended by the 1972 Protocol, 8/ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 9/ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988; 10/

8/ Ibid., vol. 976, N°. 14152.

9/ Ibid., vol. 1019, N°. 14956.

10/ United Nations publication, Sales N°. E.91.XI.6.

3. Calls upon all States to adopt adequate national laws and regulations, to strengthen national judicial systems and to carry out effective drug control activities in cooperation with other States in accordance with those international instruments;

4. Requests the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to continue to provide legal assistance to Member States which request it in adjusting their national laws, policies and infrastructures to implement the international drug control conventions, as well as assistance in training personnel responsible for applying the new laws;

5. Supports the focus on regional, subregional and national strategies for drug abuse control, particularly the master-plan approach, and urges the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to continue to complement those strategies with effective interregional strategies;

6. Reaffirms the danger and threat posed to civil society by drug trafficking and its links to terrorism, transnational crime, money laundering and the arms trade, and encourages Governments to deal with this threat and to cooperate to prevent the channelling of funds to and between those engaged in such activities;

7. Acknowledges that there are links between the illicit production of, demand for and traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the economic and social conditions in the affected countries and that there are differences and diversity in the problems of each country;

8. Calls upon the international community to provide increased economic and technical support to Governments which request it for programmes of alternative and sustainable development that have as their objectives the reduction and elimination of illicit drug production and that take fully into account the cultural traditions of peoples;

9. Notes the strong support expressed by members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for the initiatives of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to establish a dialogue with multilateral development banks so that they might undertake lending and programming activities related to drug control in interested and affected countries, and requests the Executive Director of the Programme to inform the Commission of further progress made in this area;

10. Stresses the need for effective government action to prevent the diversion to illicit markets of precursors and essential chemicals, materials and equipment used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

11. Commends the International Narcotics Control Board for its valuable work in monitoring the production and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances so as to limit their use to medical and scientific purposes, and urges increased efforts to implement its mandate under article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances concerning the monitoring of the movement of precursors and essential chemicals;

12. Calls upon the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to continue providing assistance to Member States which request it in establishing or strengthening national drug detection laboratories;

13. Calls upon States to increase efforts, with international cooperation, to reduce and eliminate illegal crops from which narcotics are

obtained, as well as to prevent and reduce the demand for and the consumption of illicit drugs;

14. Underlines the need for Governments, with international cooperation, to increase and implement alternative development programmes with the objective of reducing and eliminating the production of illicit drugs, taking into account the economic, social, cultural, political and environmental aspects of the area concerned;

15. Emphasizes the need to maintain the capacity of the International Narcotics Control Board, including through the provision of appropriate means by the Secretary-General, within existing resources, and adequate technical support by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

16. Reaffirms the importance of achieving the objectives of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse 1991-2000, under the theme "A global response to a global challenge", by Member States, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations system;

17. Takes note of the provisional report presented to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-eighth session by the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme on the economic and social consequences of drug abuse and illicit trafficking, 11/ and invites the Commission to continue considering this issue in the context of the general debate;

18. Welcomes resolution 13 (XXXVIII) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs 12/ on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/12;

19. Welcomes with satisfaction Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/16 of 24 July 1995 on the integration of demand reduction initiatives into a cohesive strategy to combat drug abuse, in which, inter alia, the Council requested the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, in consultation with Governments and appropriate agencies and organizations, to define clearly their global strategy for demand reduction and to develop a draft declaration on the guiding principles of demand reduction for submission to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-ninth session;

20. Welcomes with satisfaction resolution 5 (XXXVIII) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs 12/ on strategies for illicit supply reduction, reaffirming the need to apply effective strategies for supply reduction, based on the implementation of plans and programmes for alternative development, which have as their objectives the reduction and elimination of illicit drug production;

21. Invites the Economic and Social Council, while considering the issue of international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances at its high-level segment of 1996, to pay special attention to the

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11/ See E/CN.7/1995/3.

12/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 9 (E/1995/29), chap. XII, sect. A.

recommendations on the follow-up to General Assembly resolution 48/12, contained in the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs; 13/

22. Requests the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, in its report on illicit traffic in drugs, to include an assessment of worldwide trends in illicit traffic and transit in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including methods and routes used, and to recommend ways and means for improving the capacity of States along those routes to deal with all aspects of the drug problem;

III

Global Programme of Action

1. Reaffirms the importance of the Global Programme of Action 3/ as a comprehensive framework for national, regional and international action to combat illicit production of, demand for and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

2. Calls upon States to implement the mandates and recommendations of the Global Programme of Action, with a view to translating it into practical action for drug abuse control at the national, regional and international levels;

3. Urges all Governments and competent regional organizations to develop a balanced approach within the framework of comprehensive demand reduction activities, giving adequate priority to prevention, treatment, research, social reintegration and training in the context of national strategic plans to combat drug abuse;

4. Calls upon the relevant United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions and other concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to cooperate with and assist States in their efforts to promote and implement the Global Programme of Action;

5. Welcomes the efforts made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to facilitate reporting by Governments on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, and encourages them to pursue those efforts so as to increase the number of Governments that respond;

6. Notes the efforts being made by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other United Nations bodies to obtain reliable data on drug abuse and illicit trafficking, including the development of the International Drug Abuse Assessment System, encourages the Programme, in cooperation with other United Nations bodies, to take further steps to facilitate the efficient collection of data so as to avoid duplication of effort, and encourages also the increased and timely provision of updated information by Member States;

7. Invites the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to consider ways of providing assistance to Member States which request it in their efforts to establish appropriate mechanisms to collect and analyse data and to seek voluntary resources for this purpose;

13/ Ibid., chap. VII.

IV

Proposal for an international conference to combat the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities

1. Takes note of the recommendations contained in the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/12, 14/ including the recommendation regarding the proposal to convene an international conference ten years after the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking to review progress made by Governments and the United Nations system in combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking; 15/

2. Takes note also of resolution 13 (XXXVIII) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 12/ in which the Commission decided to keep under consideration the proposal for the convening of an international conference to review progress made by Governments and the United Nations system in combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking;

3. Takes note further of Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/40 of 27 July 1995, in which the Council recommended that the General Assembly and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs give priority consideration to the proposal to convene an international conference for the purpose of evaluating the international situation and the status of international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities;

4. Takes note of the proposal to hold a second international conference and requests the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to discuss this issue fully, as a matter of priority, at its thirty-ninth session, and to present its conclusions and suggestions through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

5. Stresses that, when discussing this issue, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should take into account that the proposed conference should focus, with a balanced and integral approach, inter alia, on the assessment of existing strategies, as well as on the consideration of new strategies, methods, practical measures and concrete actions to strengthen international cooperation to address the problem of illicit drugs, including illicit demand reduction, illicit supply reduction, the promotion of alternative development programmes, the combat against criminal organizations and illicit arms trade related to drug trafficking, money laundering, the diversion of essential chemicals, the control of stimulants and their precursors and the promotion of law enforcement cooperation, on the basis of the principles and guidelines set forth in the present resolution;

6. Also stresses that, when considering the proposal for holding such a conference, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should take into account international drug control priorities and resources, the financial and other implications of holding such a conference, as well as ways and means to increase the implementation of existing international conventions and other international instruments for cooperation on drug control;

14/ E/CN.7/1995/14.

15/ Ibid., para. 50.

V

Implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control: action by organizations of the United Nations system

1. Supports the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control 5/ as a vital tool for the coordination and enhancement of drug abuse control activities within the United Nations system, and requests that it be updated and reviewed on a biennial basis with a view to continuing efforts to improve its presentation and usefulness as a strategic tool of the United Nations for the drug problem;

2. Reaffirms the role of the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in coordinating and providing effective leadership for all United Nations drug control activities so as to increase cost-effectiveness and ensure coherence of action within the Programme as well as coordination, complementarity and non-duplication of such activities throughout the United Nations system;

3. Endorses the agreed conclusions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its coordination segment of 1994 16/ regarding coordination by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme of drug control-related policies and activities of the United Nations system, including international financial institutions;

4. Urges the governing bodies of the United Nations organizations associated with the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control to help ensure effective follow-up by including drug control in their agendas with a view to assessing the activities undertaken in accordance with the Plan and examining how the drug problem is addressed in relevant programmes;

5. Invites Member States to inform the Economic and Social Council at its high-level segment of 1996 on progress in international cooperation, especially on specific national efforts to engage the United Nations system and the multilateral development banks in addressing the drug problem;

VI

United Nations International Drug Control Programme

1. Welcomes the efforts of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to implement its mandates within the framework of the international drug control treaties, the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, the Global Programme of Action and relevant consensus documents;

2. Notes with concern the decline of available resources for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

3. Urges all Governments to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, in particular by increasing voluntary contributions to the

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16/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/49/3/Rev.1), chap. III, sect. B.

Programme, to enable it to continue, expand and strengthen its operational and technical cooperation activities;

4. Invites Governments and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to consider ways and means of improving the coordination of United Nations drug control-related activities;

5. Welcomes the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-eighth session on the programme budget of the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, in accordance with the mandate contained in section XVI, paragraph 2, of General Assembly resolution 46/185 C of 20 December 1991;

6. Notes with appreciation the efforts made by the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to comply with the approved format and methodology of the programme budget of the Fund, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the General Assembly and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and encourages the Executive Director to continue his efforts to improve the presentation and transparency of the budget;

7. Stresses the importance of the meetings of heads of national law enforcement agencies, and encourages them to consider ways to improve their functioning and to strengthen their impact so as to enhance cooperation in the fight against drugs at the regional level;

VII

1. Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General submitted under the item entitled "International drug control"; 17/

2. Requests the Secretary-General, taking into account the promotion of integrated reporting:

(a) To submit to the General Assembly, at its fifty-first session, an updated report on the status of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances;

(b) To include, in his annual report on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, recommendations on ways and means to improve implementation and provision of information by Member States.

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17/ A/50/460 and A/50/461.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/50/632)]

50/149. Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/174 of 23 December 1994,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General 1/ and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2/

Bearing in mind the fact that most of the affected countries are least developed countries,

Convinced of the necessity of strengthening the capacity within the United Nations system for the implementation and overall coordination of relief programmes for refugees, returnees and displaced persons,

Welcoming the prospects for voluntary repatriation and durable solutions to the refugee problems throughout Africa,

Recalling its resolution 49/7 of 25 October 1994, in which it endorsed the convening of a regional conference for assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in the Great Lakes region,

Taking into account resolution CM/Res.1588 (LXII) on refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixty-second ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 21 to 23 June 1995, 3/

1/ A/50/413.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement N°. 12 (A/50/12).

3/ See A/50/647, annex I.

Recognizing the need for States to create conditions conducive to the prevention of flows of refugees and displaced persons and to voluntary repatriation,

Bearing in mind that the majority of refugees and displaced persons are women and children,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General 1/ and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; 2/

2. Notes with concern the effects of political instability, internal strife, human rights violations, foreign intervention, poverty and natural disasters, such as drought, in increasing the number of refugees and displaced persons in some countries of Africa;

3. Expresses deep concern at the serious and far-reaching consequences of the presence of large numbers of refugees and displaced persons in the receiving countries and the implications for their security, their long-term socio-economic development and the environment;

4. Expresses its appreciation and strong support for those African Governments and local populations which, in spite of the general deterioration of socio-economic and environmental conditions, as well as over-stretched national resources, continue to accept the additional burdens imposed by increasing numbers of refugees and displaced persons, in compliance with the relevant principles of asylum;

5. Commends the Governments concerned for their sacrifices, for providing assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and for their efforts to promote voluntary repatriation and other measures taken to find appropriate and lasting solutions;

6. Expresses its gratitude to the international community for the humanitarian assistance it has continued to render to refugees and displaced persons and to the countries of asylum, and calls upon it to continue to provide assistance to the millions of refugees and displaced persons in Africa;

7. Expresses its concern regarding instances, in some parts of Africa, where the fundamental principle of asylum is jeopardized as a result of unlawful expulsion, refoulement, or other threats to life, physical security, dignity and well-being;

8. Welcomes the strengthening of cooperation, at all levels, between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Organization of African Unity, and urges both organizations, with relevant subregional bodies, United Nations and non-governmental organizations, the international community and the Governments concerned, to increase their efforts to address the root causes, work out strategies and find durable solutions to the problems of displacement in Africa;

9. Also welcomes the initiatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to implement General Assembly resolution 49/7, and endorses the Plan of Action adopted by the Regional Conference on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Great Lakes Region, held at Bujumbura from 15 to 17 February 1995, as a framework for solution-oriented approaches to the humanitarian problems in the Great Lakes region;

10. Calls upon the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to intensify its protection activities by, inter alia, supporting the

efforts of African Governments through appropriate training of relevant officers and other capacity-building activities, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles and providing financial, technical and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees;

11. Expresses its appreciation for the efforts of Governments and for the important work being done by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations organizations, the International Organization for Migration, non-governmental organizations and other cooperating bodies on the implementation of voluntary repatriation of refugees in Africa, and calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner, in conjunction with the Organization of African Unity and Governments concerned, subregional groupings and other interested parties, actively to continue to seek sustainable solutions to the refugee problem in Africa, in particular through facilitating voluntary return in a dignified and orderly manner;

12. Appeals to Governments, United Nations and non-governmental organizations and the international community to create conditions that can facilitate the voluntary return and the early rehabilitation and reintegration of refugees;

13. Commends the Governments of the Great Lakes region and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on their initiatives to promote repatriation within the framework of tripartite agreements on voluntary repatriation of refugees in the region;

14. Encourages the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to cooperate with the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in emergency humanitarian situations in Africa;

15. Calls upon the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in conjunction with host Governments, United Nations and non-governmental organizations and the international community, to undertake an early assessment of the negative impacts of large refugee concentrations on the host communities, with a view to initiating timely and concrete measures to prevent damage and to assist in its repair, especially damage caused by mass refugee influxes to the environment and ecosystems in host countries;

16. Notes with satisfaction the voluntary return of millions of refugees to their homelands following the successful repatriation and reintegration operations carried out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with the cooperation and collaboration of many countries hosting refugees, and looks forward to other programmes to assist the voluntary repatriation of all refugees in Africa;

17. Expresses its concern about the long stay of refugees in certain African countries, and calls upon the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to keep under review her programmes in those countries, taking into account the increasing requirements there;

18. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the specialized agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, donor countries and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for their assistance in mitigating the plight of the large number of refugees, returnees and displaced persons;

19. Expresses the hope that additional resources will be made available for general refugee programmes to keep pace with refugee needs;

20. Calls upon Governments, United Nations organizations, non-governmental organizations and the international community as a whole to strengthen the emergency response capacity of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the basis of the experience of the emergency in Rwanda, and to continue providing needed resources and operational support to Rwandese refugees and the host countries until a permanent solution can be implemented;

21. Calls upon the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure in areas affected by refugees in countries of asylum;

22. Calls upon Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to provide the necessary support and financial assistance to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to enhance her capacities and abilities to implement emergency operations, care and maintenance activities and repatriation and reintegration programmes for the benefit of refugees, returnees and, as appropriate, internally displaced persons;

23. Appeals to Member States and international and non-governmental organizations to provide adequate financial, material and technical assistance for relief and rehabilitation programmes for the large number of refugees, voluntary returnees and displaced persons and victims of natural disasters and to the affected countries;

24. Requests all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to pay particular attention to meeting the special needs of refugee women and children;

25. Calls upon the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, United Nations humanitarian organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, regional and international financial institutions, the International Organization for Migration and non-governmental organizations to increase the capacity for coordination and delivery of humanitarian emergency assistance and disaster relief in general, with States and others concerned in respect of asylum, relief, repatriation, rehabilitation and resettlement of refugees, returnees and displaced persons, including those refugees in urban areas;

26. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to review her general programmes in Africa to take account of the increasing requirements in that region and with a view to continuing her efforts and expanding her activities in close collaboration with the Organization of African Unity, regional organizations and governmental and non-governmental organizations in Africa, in order to consolidate aid and increase essential services to refugees, returnees and displaced persons;

27. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive and consolidated report on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and

humanitarian questions", and an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1996.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/50/632)]

50/150. Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 49/172 of 23 December 1994,

Aware that the majority of refugees are children and women,

Bearing in mind that unaccompanied refugee minors are among the most vulnerable refugees and require special assistance and care,

Mindful of the fact that the ultimate solution to the plight of those unaccompanied minors is their return to and reunification with their families,

Noting that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has developed revised Guidelines on Refugee Children, issued in May 1994,

Noting also the efforts of the High Commissioner to ensure the protection of and assistance to refugees, including children and unaccompanied minors, and that further efforts need to be exerted to this effect,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child 1/ and the 1951 Convention 2/ and the 1967 Protocol 3/ relating to the Status of Refugees,

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1/ Resolution 44/25, annex.

2/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, N°. 2545.

3/ Ibid., vol. 606, N°. 8791.

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General; 4/

2. Expresses its deep concern at the plight of unaccompanied refugee minors, and emphasizes the urgent need for their early identification and for timely, detailed and accurate information on their number and whereabouts;

3. Calls upon all Governments, the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, all United Nations organizations, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to exert the maximum effort to assist and protect refugee minors and to expedite the return to and reunification with their families of unaccompanied refugee minors;

4. Urges the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, all United Nations organizations, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to take appropriate steps to mobilize resources commensurate to the needs and interests of the unaccompanied refugee minors and for their reunification with their families;

5. Condemns all acts of exploitation of unaccompanied refugee minors, including their use as soldiers or human shields in armed conflict and their recruitment in military forces, and any other acts that endanger their safety and personal security;

6. Calls upon the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations organizations and international organizations to mobilize adequate assistance to unaccompanied minors in the areas of relief, education, health and psychological rehabilitation;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

97th plenary meeting
21 December 1995

4/ A/50/555.

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A/RES/50/151
9 February 1996

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 109

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/50/632)]

50/151. Comprehensive consideration and review of the problems of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and related migratory movements

The General Assembly,

Noting the 1951 Convention 1/ and the 1967 Protocol 2/ relating to the Status of Refugees,

Recalling its resolutions 48/113 of 20 December 1993 and 49/173 of 23 December 1994,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General 3/ and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 4/

Reaffirming the need for the international community to consider comprehensive approaches for the coordination of action with regard to refugees, returnees, displaced persons and related migratory movements,

Considering the magnitude of existing and potential refugee and related migratory movements in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and relevant neighbouring States,

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1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, N°. 2545.

2/ Ibid., vol. 606, N°. 8791.

3/ A/50/414.

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement N°. 12 (A/50/12).

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General, as well as the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in particular paragraph 30 of the addendum to the latter report; 5/

2. Calls upon the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in consultation with States concerned and in coordination with relevant intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations, to continue to consider and develop comprehensive regional approaches to the problems of refugees and displaced persons;

3. Expresses its appreciation to the High Commissioner for her efforts to promote and develop a transparent preparatory process for a regional conference to address the problems of refugees, displaced persons and other forms of involuntary displacement and returnees in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and relevant neighbouring States;

4. Welcomes the establishment of a common secretariat for the preparation of the conference, comprising the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and its Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights;

5. Requests the High Commissioner, in close cooperation with States and intergovernmental organizations concerned, to convene the conference in 1996;

6. Expresses its appreciation to United Nations bodies and agencies and other international organizations and institutions for their valuable contribution to the preparatory process leading to the conference;

7. Urges all States concerned and appropriate intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations to support that process;

8. Appeals to all States and regional and intergovernmental organizations to provide the necessary support and resources needed by the secretariat for the preparation and holding of the conference;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

97th plenary meeting
21 December 1995

5/ A/50/12/Add.1.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/50/632)]

50/152. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of her Office 1/ and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner on the work of its forty-sixth session, 2/

Recalling its resolution 49/169 of 23 December 1994,

Reaffirming the importance of the 1951 Convention 3/ and the 1967 Protocol 4/ relating to the Status of Refugees as the cornerstone of the international system for the protection of refugees, and noting with satisfaction that one hundred and thirty States are now parties to one or both instruments,

Reaffirming also the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner, as well as the crucial importance of the High Commissioner's functions of providing international protection to refugees and seeking solutions to refugee problems,

Commending the High Commissioner and her staff for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities, paying tribute to those staff members who have endangered or

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement N°. 12 (A/50/12).

2/ A/50/12/Add.1.

3/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, N°. 2545.

4/ Ibid., vol. 606, N°. 8791.

lost their lives in the course of their duties, and emphasizing the urgent need for effective measures to ensure the security of staff engaged in humanitarian operations,

Distressed at the continued suffering of refugees, for whom a solution has yet to be found, and noting with deep concern that refugee protection continues to be jeopardized in many situations as a result of denial of admission, unlawful expulsion, refoulement, unjustified detention, other threats to their physical security, dignity and well-being and failure to respect and ensure their fundamental freedoms and human rights,

Welcoming the continuing strong commitment of States to providing protection and assistance to refugees and the valuable support extended by Governments to the High Commissioner in carrying out her humanitarian tasks, and commending those States, particularly the least developed and those hosting millions of refugees over long periods of time, which, despite severe economic, development and environmental challenges of their own, continue to admit large numbers of refugees into their territories,

Recognizing that, in certain regions, misuse by individuals of asylum procedures jeopardizes the institution of asylum and adversely affects the prompt and effective protection of refugees,

Concerned that statelessness, including the inability to establish one's nationality, may result in displacement, and stressing, in this regard, that the prevention and reduction of statelessness and the protection of stateless persons are important also in the prevention of potential refugee situations,

1. Strongly reaffirms the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of providing international protection to refugees and seeking solutions to refugee problems and the need for States to cooperate fully with the Office in order to facilitate the effective exercise of that function;

2. Calls upon all States which have not yet done so to accede to and implement fully the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees and relevant regional refugee instruments, as applicable, for the protection of refugees;

3. Also calls upon all States to uphold asylum as an indispensable instrument for the protection of refugees, to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the fundamental principle of non-refoulement, as well as the humane treatment of asylum-seekers and refugees in accordance with internationally recognized human rights and humanitarian norms;

4. Reaffirms that everyone, without distinction of any kind, is entitled to the right to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution;

5. Reiterates the importance of ensuring access, for all persons seeking international protection, to fair and efficient procedures for the determination of refugee status or, as appropriate, to other mechanisms to ensure that persons in need of international protection are identified and granted such protection, while not diminishing the protection afforded to refugees under the terms of the 1951 Convention, the 1967 Protocol and relevant regional instruments;

7. Reiterates its support for the role of the Office of the High Commissioner in exploring further measures to ensure international protection to all who need it, consistent with fundamental protection principles reflected in international instruments, and looks forward to the informal consultations of the Office of the High Commissioner on the subject;

8. Calls for a more concerted response by the international community to the needs of internally displaced persons and, in accordance with its resolution 49/169, reaffirms its support for the High Commissioner's efforts, on the basis of specific requests from the Secretary-General or the competent principal organs of the United Nations and with the consent of the State concerned, and taking into account the complementarities of the mandates and expertise of other relevant organizations, to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to such persons, emphasizing that activities on behalf of internally displaced persons must not undermine the institution of asylum, including the right to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution;

9. Reiterates the relationship between safeguarding human rights and preventing refugee situations, recognizes that the effective promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including through institutions that sustain the rule of law, justice and accountability, are essential for States to address some of the causes of refugee movements and for States to fulfil their humanitarian responsibilities in reintegrating returning refugees and, in this connection, calls upon the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, within its mandate and at the request of the Government concerned, to strengthen its support of national efforts at legal and judicial capacity-building, where necessary, in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

10. Also reiterates that development and rehabilitation assistance is essential in addressing some of the causes of refugee situations, as well as in the context of the development of prevention strategies;

11. Condemns all forms of ethnic violence and intolerance, which are among the major causes of forced displacements, as well as an impediment to durable solutions to refugee problems, and appeals to States to combat intolerance, racism and xenophobia and to foster empathy and understanding through public statements, appropriate legislation and social policies, especially with regard to the special situation of refugees and asylum-seekers;

12. Welcomes the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, 5/ particularly the strong commitment made by States in the Platform to refugee women and other displaced women in need of international protection, and calls upon the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to support and promote efforts by States towards the development and implementation of criteria and guidelines on responses to persecution, including persecution through sexual violence or other gender-related persecution, specifically aimed at women for reasons enumerated in the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol, by sharing information on States' initiatives to develop such criteria and guidelines and by monitoring to ensure their fair and consistent application by the States concerned;

5/ A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

13. Reiterates that, the grant of asylum or refuge being a peaceful and humanitarian act, refugee camps and settlements must maintain their exclusively civilian and humanitarian character and all parties are obliged to abstain from any activity likely to undermine this, condemns all acts which pose a threat to the personal security of refugees and asylum-seekers, and also those that may endanger the safety and stability of States, calls upon States of refuge to take all necessary measures to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements is maintained, and further calls upon States of refuge to take effective measures to prevent the infiltration of armed elements, to provide effective physical protection to refugees and asylum-seekers and to afford the Office of the High Commissioner and other appropriate humanitarian organizations prompt and unhindered access to them;

14. Encourages the High Commissioner to continue her activities on behalf of stateless persons, as part of her statutory function of providing international protection and of seeking preventive action, as well as her responsibilities under General Assembly resolutions 3274 (XXIV) of 10 December 1974 and 31/36 of 30 November 1976;

15. Requests the Office of the High Commissioner, in view of the limited number of States party to these instruments, actively to promote accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons 6/ and the 1961 Convention on the reduction of statelessness, 7/ as well as to provide relevant technical and advisory services pertaining to the preparation and implementation of nationality legislation to interested States;

16. Calls upon States to adopt nationality legislation with a view to reducing statelessness, consistent with the fundamental principles of international law, in particular by preventing arbitrary deprivation of nationality and by eliminating provisions that permit the renunciation of a nationality without the prior possession or acquisition of another nationality, while at the same time recognizing the right of States to establish laws governing the acquisition, renunciation or loss of nationality;

17. Reaffirms that voluntary repatriation, when it is feasible, is the ideal solution to refugee problems, and calls upon countries of origin, countries of asylum, the Office of the High Commissioner and the international community as a whole to do everything possible to enable refugees to exercise their right to return home in safety and dignity;

18. Reiterates the right of all persons to return to their country, and emphasizes in this regard the prime responsibility of countries of origin for establishing conditions that allow voluntary repatriation of refugees in safety and with dignity and, in recognition of the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon all States to facilitate the return of their nationals who are not recognized as refugees;

19. Calls upon all States to promote conditions conducive to the return of refugees and to support their sustainable reintegration by providing countries of origin with necessary rehabilitation and development assistance in conjunction, as appropriate, with the Office of the High Commissioner and relevant development agencies;

6/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 360, No. 5158.

7/ Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

20. Recalls Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/56 of 29 July 1995 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, and welcomes the decision of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to review, in the course of 1996, aspects of that resolution relevant to the work of the Office of the High Commissioner;

21. Notes with appreciation the programme policies established by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner, and underscores the importance of their implementation by the Office of the High Commissioner, implementing partners and other relevant organizations in order to ensure the provision of effective protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees;

22. Reaffirms the importance of incorporating environmental considerations into the programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner, especially in the least developed and developing countries which have hosted refugees over long periods of time, welcomes efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to make a more focused contribution to resolving refugee-related environmental problems, and calls upon the High Commissioner to promote and enhance coordination and collaboration with host Governments, donors, relevant United Nations organizations, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other actors concerned to address refugee-related environmental problems in a more integrated and effective manner;

23. Recognizes the importance of the introduction of Russian as an official language of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner in facilitating the work of the High Commissioner and the implementation of the provisions of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, notably in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States;

24. Calls upon all Governments and other donors to demonstrate their international solidarity and burden-sharing with countries of asylum through efforts aimed at continuing to alleviate the burden borne by States which have received large numbers of refugees, in particular those with limited resources, and to contribute to the programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the effect on countries of asylum of the increasing requirements of large refugee populations and the need to widen the donor base and to achieve greater burden-sharing among donors, to assist the High Commissioner in securing additional and timely income from traditional governmental sources, other Governments and the private sector in order to ensure that the needs of refugees, returnees and other displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner are met.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/50/633)]

50/153. The rights of the child

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/209, 49/210, 49/211 and 49/212 of 23 December 1994,

Recalling also the recommendation in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, 1/ that measures be taken to achieve, by 1995, universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, and the universal signing of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s adopted by the World Summit for Children, 2/ as well as their effective implementation,

Recalling further Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1995/78 and 1995/79 of 8 March 1995, 3/

Convinced that the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as a standard-setting accomplishment of the United Nations in the field of human rights, makes a positive contribution to protecting the rights of children and ensuring their well-being,

Seriously concerned about those reservations to the Convention that are contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise contrary to international treaty law, and recalling that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action urges States to withdraw such reservations,

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1/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

2/ See A/45/625, annex.

3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement N°. 3 and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2).

Reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which states that national and international mechanisms and programmes should be strengthened for the defence and protection of children, in particular the girl child, abandoned children, street children, economically and sexually exploited children, including through child pornography, child prostitution or sale of organs, children victims of diseases including acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, refugee and displaced children, children in detention, children in armed conflict and children victims of famine, drought and other emergencies, and also requires measures against female infanticide and harmful child labour,

Reaffirming also that the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration in all actions concerning children,

Mindful of the important role of the United Nations and of the United Nations Children's Fund in promoting the well-being of children and their development,

Noting with appreciation the important work carried out by the United Nations, in particular the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the expert designated by the Secretary-General to undertake the study on the effect of armed conflicts on children,

Recognizing also the valuable work done by relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child,

Reaffirming that the rights of children require special protection and call for continuous improvement of the situation of children all over the world, as well as for their development and education in conditions of peace and security,

Profoundly concerned about the continuing deterioration in the situation of children in many parts of the world as a result of armed conflicts, and convinced that immediate action is called for,

Convinced that children affected by armed conflicts require the special protection of the international community and that there is a need for all States to work towards the alleviation of their plight,

Profoundly concerned that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical as a result of inadequate social and economic conditions, natural disasters, armed conflicts, exploitation, intolerance, unemployment, rural-to-urban migration, illiteracy, hunger and disability, and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

Deeply concerned by the persistence of the practice of the use of children for prostitution, sexual abuse and other activities, which may also often constitute exploitation of child labour,

Recognizing the existence of a market which encourages the increase of such criminal practices against children,

Concerned by the exploitation of child labour and by the fact that it prevents a large number of children from an early age, especially in poverty stricken areas, from receiving basic education and may unduly imperil their health and even their lives,

Alarmed, in particular, by the exploitation of child labour in its most extreme forms, including forced labour, bonded labour and other forms of slavery,

Encouraged by measures taken by Governments to eradicate the exploitation of child labour,

Determined to safeguard children's right to life, and recognizing the duty and responsibility of Governments to investigate all cases of offences against children, including killing and violence, and to punish offenders,

Deeply concerned about the growing number of street children world wide and the squalid conditions in which these children are often forced to live,

Welcoming the efforts made by some Governments to take effective action to address the question of street children,

Recognizing that legislation per se is not enough to prevent violations of human rights and that Governments should implement their laws and complement legislative measures with effective action, inter alia, in the fields of law enforcement and in the administration of justice, and in social, educational and public health programmes,

I

Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

1. Welcomes the unprecedented number of one hundred and eighty-one States which have ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a universal commitment to the rights of the child;

2. Urges all States which have not yet done so to sign and ratify or accede to the Convention as a matter of priority, with a view to reaching universal adherence by the end of 1995;

3. Emphasizes the importance of the full implementation by States parties of the provisions of the Convention;

4. Urges States parties to the Convention which have made reservations to review the compatibility of their reservations with article 51 of the Convention and other relevant rules of international law, with the aim of withdrawing them;

5. Calls upon States parties to the Convention to ensure that the education of the child shall be carried out in accordance with article 29 of the Convention and that the education be directed, inter alia, to the development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, for the Charter of the United Nations and for different cultures, and to the preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of the sexes and friendship among peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin;

6. Also calls upon States parties to the Convention, in accordance with their obligation under article 42, to make the principles and provisions of the Convention widely known to adults and children alike;

II

Protection of children affected by armed conflicts

7. Calls upon States fully to respect the dispositions contained in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 4/ and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977, 5/ as well as those in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which accord children affected by armed conflicts special protection and treatment;

8. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on concrete measures taken to alleviate the situation of children in armed conflict; 6/

9. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on its eighth session 7/ and the recommendations contained therein concerning the situation of children affected by armed conflict;

10. Expresses its support for the work of the expert designated by the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive study of the situation of children affected by armed conflicts, with the mandate established by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/157 of 20 December 1993;

11. Urgently requests that appropriate measures be taken by Member States and United Nations agencies, within the scope of their respective mandates, to facilitate the extension of humanitarian assistance and relief and humanitarian access to children in situations of armed conflict and in the immediate aftermath of such conflict;

12. Invites the open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights on the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child related to the involvement of children in armed conflicts to pursue its mandate;

III

International measures for the prevention and eradication of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

13. Welcomes the provisional report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; 8/

14. Expresses its support for the work of the Special Rapporteur appointed by the Commission on Human Rights to examine, all over the world, the question of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

4/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, Nos. 970 to 973.

5/ Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

6/ A/50/672.

7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 41 (A/50/41).

8/ A/50/456.

15. Takes note of the establishment by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1994/9 of 22 July 1994 of an open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights responsible for elaborating, as a matter of priority and in close cooperation with the Special Rapporteur and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, guidelines for a possible draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child related to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as the basic measures needed for the prevention and eradication of those abnormal practices;

16. Requests that all States support efforts in the context of the United Nations system aimed at adopting efficient international measures for the prevention and eradication of all those practices and consider contributing to the drafting of an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

17. Welcomes the convening of the first world congress on the commercial sexual exploitation of children, to be held at Stockholm from 26 to 31 August 1996;

IV

Elimination of exploitation of child labour

18. Encourages Member States which have not yet done so to ratify the conventions of the International Labour Organization relating to the elimination of exploitation of child labour, in particular those concerning the minimum age for employment, the abolition of forced labour and the prohibition of particularly hazardous work for children, and to implement them;

19. Calls upon Governments to take legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to ensure the protection of children from economic exploitation, in particular the protection from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development;

20. Urges Governments to take all necessary measures to eliminate all extreme forms of child labour, such as forced labour, bonded labour and other forms of slavery;

21. Requests that measures be taken by Governments, at the national and international levels, within the framework of multisectoral approaches, to end exploitation of child labour in line with the commitments undertaken at the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen in March 1995, 9/ and the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing in September 1995,10/ and taking into account the results of other relevant United Nations conferences;

22. Requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and

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9/ See A/CONF.166/9.

10/ See A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1.

other relevant actors, to report on current initiatives and programmes of the United Nations and its affiliated agencies which address the exploitation of child labour and on how to improve cooperation at the national and international levels in this field;

V

The plight of street children

23. Expresses grave concern at the continued growth in the number of cases world wide and at reports of street children being involved in and affected by serious crime, drug abuse, violence and prostitution;

24. Urges Governments to continue actively to seek comprehensive solutions to tackle the problems of street children and to take measures to restore their full participation in society and to provide, inter alia, adequate nutrition, shelter, health care and education;

25. Strongly urges all Governments to guarantee the respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, particularly the right to life, and to take urgent measures to prevent the killing of street children and to combat torture and violence against them;

26. Emphasizes that strict compliance with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant human rights instruments constitutes a significant step towards solving the problems of street children, and recommends that the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other relevant treaty-monitoring bodies give attention to this growing problem when examining reports from States parties;

27. Calls upon the international community to support, through effective international cooperation, the efforts of States to improve the situation of street children, and encourages States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in preparing their reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to bear this problem in mind and to consider requesting technical advice and assistance for initiatives aimed at improving the situation of street children, in accordance with article 45 of the Convention;

VI

28. Invites Governments, United Nations bodies and organizations, including the United Nations Children's Fund and relevant mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to cooperate to ensure greater awareness and more effective action to solve the problem of children living in exceptionally difficult conditions by, among other measures, initiating and supporting development projects which can have a positive impact on the situation of those children;

29. Requests the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

30. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the rights of the child to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the findings of the expert designated by the Secretary-General to undertake the study on the effect of armed conflicts on children; and the problems of

exploitation of child labour, its causes and consequences, in accordance with paragraph 22 above;

31. Decides to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-first session under the item entitled "The rights of the child".

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/50/633)]

50/154. The girl child

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, 1/ the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, 2/ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, 3/ the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights, 4/ Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 5/ the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s of the World Summit for Children, 6/ the

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1/ A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

2/ A/CONF.166/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

3/ Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

4/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

5/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

6/ See A/45/625, annex.

World Declaration on Education for All and the Framework for Action to Meet Basic Learning Needs 7/ adopted at the World Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs,

Recalling also that discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child was identified as a critical area of concern in the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women in the achievement of equality, development and peace for women, and that the advancement and empowerment of women throughout their life-cycle must begin with the girl child,

Noting with appreciation that the World Summit for Children sensitized the entire world to the plight of children,

Reaffirming the equal rights of women and men as enshrined in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations, and recalling the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 8/ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 9/

1. Urges all States to eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child and to eliminate the violation of the human rights of all children, paying particular attention to the obstacles faced by the girl child;

2. Also urges all States, international organizations as well as non-governmental organizations, individually and collectively to set goals and to develop and implement gender-sensitive strategies to address the needs of children, in particular those of girls, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the goals, strategic objectives and actions contained in the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women;

3. Requests all States, international organizations as well as non-governmental organizations to increase awareness of the potential of the girl child and to promote the participation of girls and young women, on an equal basis and as partners with boys and young men, in social, economic and political life and in the development of strategies and in the implementation of actions aimed at achieving gender equality, development and peace;

4. Calls upon Member States and organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization, to take into account the rights and the particular needs of the girl child, especially in education, health and nutrition, and to eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against the girl child;

5. Urges all States to eliminate all forms of violence against children, in particular the girl child;

7/ Final Report of the World Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs, Jomtien, Thailand, 5-9 March 1990, Inter-Agency Commission (UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank) for the World Conference on Education for All, New York, 1990, appendix 1.

8/ Resolution 34/180, annex.

9/ Resolution 44/25, annex.

6. Calls upon States, international organizations as well as non-governmental organizations to help mobilize the necessary financial resources and political support to achieve goals, strategies and actions relating to the survival, development and protection of the girl child in all programmes for children;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the goals and actions relating to the girl child receive full attention in the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women through the work of all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

8. Also requests the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to urge all the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system focusing on the advancement of women to make commitments to goals and actions relating to the girl child in the revision and implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001, 10/ as well as in the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2002.

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10/ E/1993/43, annex.